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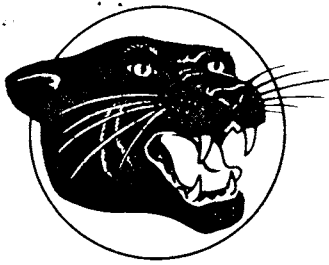
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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

DAVID KIDWELL, *Sports Information Director*

OFFICE: (217) 581-2920

HOME: (217) 345-4166

Nov. 9, 1982
LS-AS-FB STATE-
FB OPP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--All but assured of a bid to the NCAA Division I-AA tournament, Eastern Illinois University's unbeaten Panthers close the regular season hosting Kentucky State Saturday (Nov. 13) at 1 p.m.

EIU has a 9-0-1 record, the best ever during the regular season, while Kentucky State, which has lost four in a row, is 2-7.

The Panthers, ranked No. 6 last week, could move up in the I-AA poll as Northeast Louisiana, ranked No. 5, lost and Tennessee State, No. 4, was idle.

Twelve teams will be selected for the tournament with first round games scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 27. The top four seeded teams will receive a bye and not play until Saturday, Dec. 4.

"Nailing down a playoff berth and finishing unbeaten are our prime objectives this week," said head coach Darrell Mudra. "We're playing very well right now although we can't afford to turn the ball over quite like we did last week.

"We said before the year started that this could be our best team and thus far the players have risen to the occasion each time . . . during October we had five particularly difficult games against established I-AA teams and we managed to win each one. That's quite an achievement in itself."

EIU's defense, which seems to get better each week, is now ranked No. 2 in scoring defense giving up just 9.7 a game.

The offense, thanks to 559 total yards last week, moved into the top 20 with 363 yards per contest. QB Jeff Christensen (Gibson City) has 1975 passing yards this season and 5987 in his career needing just a handful to top 2000 in '82 and 6000 in a three year career.

Kevin Staple (Markham-Thornwood), junior running back, has 949 yards rushing, needing only 51 to become the sixth Panther to gain 1000 yards in a season.

-more-

Kentucky State, which has lost its last four games by a combined score of 178-13, has four rushers between 100-200 yards led by George Richardson.

Split end Darryl Cook has caught 30 passes for nearly 500 yards to lead the Thorobreds offensive attack. The Thorobreds lone wins were 7-0 over Knoxville College and 21-14 over Clark.

GAME NOTES

THE SERIES: This is the first meeting between these two schools.

LAST WEEK: QB Jeff Christensen set passing and total offense records of 409 and 416 yards leading EIU past Southwest Missouri 36-7. Christensen completed 20 of 33 passes breaking his old record of 370 yards passing. He threw touchdown passes of 75 yards to Jerry Wright and 12 to Roger Holoman. The defense had eight QB sacks to push its total to a record 59.

Valdosta State rolled over Kentucky State, 48-13. KSU lost its fourth straight and dropped to 2-7.

THE COACHES: EIU's Darrell Mudra, in his fifth year at EIU, is 45-14-1. In his 21st year overall he is 155-64-2 and ranks third among active NCAA I-AA coaches for most victories.

Ron Mitchell, the athletic director and head basketball coach, replaced former head coach Leroy Smith in mid-season. Smith resigned for "personal reasons" after coaching at KSU 13 years.

11 STRAIGHT: Dating back to the final game of '82, the Panthers have played 11 in a row without a loss. Although EIU has had three previously unbeaten teams all had a tie which marred a perfect record and none won over eight games so a victory Saturday would give the Panthers their best regular season ever.

CHRISTENSEN

STATS: Jeff Christensen (Gibson City) has moved into 15th place in NCAA I-AA total offense stats at 195.8. He also has 1975 yards passing and only five I-AA passers have more yards.

TEAM DEFENSE: The Panthers are ranked No. 2 in team defense allowing just 9.7 per game. The I-AA record is 6.5 by South Carolina State, impossible to reach. A shutout Saturday would give EIU a season ending 8.8 figure. Western Michigan leads this category at 7.5 so it's doubtful if the Panthers could overtake them.

OFFENSIVE, DEFENSIVE

RANKINGS: Both the total offense and total defense ranks in the top 20 this week. The defense is 17th allowing just 261 yards a game while the offense is 18th at 363 per contest. Southwest Missouri, Nevada-Reno and Harvard are the only other teams to be ranked in both categories.

BETTER

PASSING: The improvement in the passing game is particularly evident the last three contests as the Panthers are averaging 271 yards per contest. EIU amassed a school record 409 against Southwest Missouri, a team that was ranked No. 2 in pass defense in the nation with 99 yards per contest.

EIU FOOTBALL
ADD 2

WRIGHT'S RIGHT: The emergence of Jerry Wright, sophomore split end, as a premier pass receiver is of prime importance to the upgraded passing attack. Wright, who has started the last six games, has caught 25 for 611 yards during this stretch averaging over 100 yards per contest. In his first four games he caught one for 19 giving him a season total of 26 for 630.

INJURY REPORT: The Panthers top 44 should be ready to go. The only one doubtful is Wes Nixon (Lorain, OH-Illinois Valley CC) who has missed three games with a knee injury but is practicing on a limited basis and could possibly play in the tournament.

FINAL MCC

STANDINGS:	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>OVERALL</u>	<u>MCC</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
	Eastern Illinois	9-0-1	2-0-1	230-97
	Southwest Missouri	5-5	1-2	207-169
	Northern Iowa	3-5-1	2-0-1	124-180
	Western Illinois	1-8	0-3	117-146

Today's Games: Eastern Illinois hosts Kentucky State
Northern Iowa hosts South Dakota
Southwest Missouri at Southern Illinois
Western Illinois at Howard

MCC TITLE: For the second straight year the Panthers have tied for the Mid-Continent Conference championship, this time with Northern Iowa, at 2-0-1. In five years, EIU has won it outright once (1980), tied twice (1982 & 1981), third (1978) and tied for last (1979). During these five years the Panthers are 12-7-1 in league play, the best won-lost record of any MCC member, past or present.

1982 EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL STATISTICS (9-0-1)

<u>RUSHING</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>GAIN</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>P/GAME</u>	<u>P/CARRY</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>LONG</u>
Kevin Staple	10	211	1058	109	949	94.9	4.5	8	88(YSU)
Wes Nixon	7	92	389	38	351	50.1	3.8	2	31(ISU)
Darryon White	10	53	228	16	212	21.2	4.0	1	34(WSU)
Tyrone Davis	8	32	141	12	129	16.1	4.0	1	15(SWMO)
Jeff Christensen	10	67	170	187	-17	-	-	1	31(ISU)
Pat Blair	7	4	36	5	31	4.4	7.7	-	15(AKR)
Jerry Wright	9	2	-	10	-10	-	-	-	-
Booker Brown	7	3	9	-	9	1.3	3.0	-	5(SWMO)
EIU TOTALS	10	464	2031	377	1654	165.4	3.6	13	88(YSU)
OPPONENTS	10	425	1542	593	949	94.9	2.2	6	33(SIU)

<u>PASSING</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>CPL</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>YDS</u>	<u>PCT</u>	<u>P/GAME</u>	<u>P/CPL</u>	<u>P/ATT</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>LONG</u>
Jeff Christensen	10	137	278	13	1975	.493	197.5	14.4	7.1	15	75(SWMO)
EIU TOTALS	10	137	278	13	1975	.493	197.5	14.4	7.1	15	75(SWMO)
OPPONENTS	10	129	271	18	1662	.476	166.2	12.9	6.1	5	45(ISU)

<u>PASS RECEIVING</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>REC</u>	<u>YDS</u>	<u>P/CATCH</u>	<u>P/GAME</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>LONG</u>	<u>TEAM TOTALS</u>	<u>EIU</u>	<u>OPP</u>
Wes Nixon	7	15	207	13.8	29.6	2	30(WSU)	First Downs	177	157
Kevin Staple	10	21	118	5.6	11.8	-	21(IND)	by rushing	93	63
Roger Holoman	10	19	326	17.1	32.6	1	42(SWMO)	by passing	81	77
Darryon White	10	18	222	12.3	22.2	1	52(ISU)	by penalty	3	17
Jim Schmidt	8	10	130	13.0	16.2	-	18(WSU)	TOTAL OFFENSE	3629	2611
Jerry Wright	10	26	630	24.2	63.0	7	75(SWMO)	per game	362.9	261.1
Dirk Androff	10	5	35	7.0	3.5	3	11(WSU)	total plays	742	696
Pat Blair	7	16	237	14.8	33.8	1	24(SWMO)	yds. p/play	4.9	3.7
Tyrone Davis	8	4	24	6.0	3.0	-	8(SIU)	PENALTY/YDS	72/709	51/423
Reggie Drew	8	2	39	19.5	4.9	-	30(SWMO)	FUMBLES/LOST	21/12	25/18
Roy Ellis	1	1	7	7.0	7.0	-	7(WSU)			
EIU TOTALS	10	137	1975	4.4	197.5	15	75(SWMO)			
OPPONENTS	10	129	1662	12.9	166.2	5	45(ISU)			

<u>PUNTING</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>YDS</u>	<u>AVE</u>	<u>RET</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>NET AVE</u>	<u>LONG</u>	<u>SCORE BY QUARTERS</u>
Don Manzke	10	65	2595	39.9	123	2472	38.0	63(YSU)	EIU 34 88 43 65 - 230
EIU TOTALS	10	65	2595	39.9	123	2472	38.0	63(YSU)	
OPPONENTS	10	75	2813	37.5	253	2560	34.1	66(YSU)	OPP 17 44 10 26 - 97

<u>RETURNS</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>KO</u>	<u>YDS</u>	<u>AVE</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>LONG</u>	<u>PT</u>	<u>YDS</u>	<u>AVE</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>LONG</u>
Wes Nixon	7	8	184	23.0	-	43(NEMO)	5	60	12.0	-	41(WSU)
Darryon White	10	2	34	17.0	-	18(WIU)	-	-	-	-	-
Randy McCue	10	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	0.3	-	1(UNI)
Kevin Staple	10	2	36	18.0	-	18(YSU)	-	-	-	-	-
Gary Bridges	9	3	76	25.3	-	31(SWMO)	4	29	7.3	-	13(ISU)
Brian Newby	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	-4	-	-	-
Charlie Person	10	-	-	-	-	-	20	137	6.8	-	38(UNI)
Booker Brown	7	6	88	14.7	-	23(WSU)	-	-	-	-	-
Chris Nicholson	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	10.0	-	10(WSU)
Roger Holoman	10	1	17	17.0	-	17(IND)	-	-	-	-	-
Dan Fallon	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	20	20.0	-	20(WSU)
EIU TOTALS	10	22	435	19.8	-	43(NEMO)	37	253	6.8	-	41(WSU)
OPPONENTS	10	43	874	20.3	-	38(IND)	27	123	4.6	-	12(ISU)

<u>SCORING</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>PAT/K</u>	<u>PAT/R-P</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>SAF</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Kevin Staple	10	8	-	-	-	-	48
Wes Nixon	7	4	-	-	-	-	24
Darryon White	10	2	-	-	-	-	12
Dave Strauch	10	-	21-27	-	13-19	-	60
Jeff Christensen	10	1	-	-	-	-	6
Dirk Androff	10	3	-	1	-	-	20
Jerry Wright	10	7	-	-	-	-	42
Tyrone Davis	10	1	-	-	-	-	6
Pat Blair	7	1	-	-	-	-	6
Roger Holoman	10	1	-	-	-	-	6
EIU TOTALS	10	28	21-27	1	13-19	-	230(23.0 ppg)
OPPONENTS	10	11	10-11	-	7-13	-	97(9.7 ppg)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	G	T	AT	SACKS (YDS)	TFL (YDS)	FF	FR	INT/YDS/TD	FG	BLOCKS			PUNT
										PAT	PASS		
Bill Mines	10	47	77	3(-34)	2(-6)	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gary Bridges	9	17	10	2(-37)	-	-	-	3-47-0	1	-	-	-	-
Robert Williams	10	57	40	-	-	-	1	2-0-0	-	-	-	-	-
Greg Duncan	10	50	31	11½(-104)	8(-22)	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elvin Carmichael	10	44	20	7(-52)	7(-17)	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
David Fergurson	10	19	31	3½(-34)	2(-7)	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Ortega Jackson	10	24	33	1(-7)	1(-3)	1	6	3-36-0	-	-	-	-	-
Randy McCue	10	30	19	-	-	1	3	7-51-0	-	-	-	-	1
Chris Nicholson	10	33	22	7½(-72)	4(-13)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Reggie Taylor	8	39	32	7(-52)	2(-8)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keith Wojnowski	10	41	27	14½(-125)	8(-26)	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Charlie Person	10	24	13	-	1(-2)	-	-	2-3-0	-	-	-	-	-
Dan Fallon	8	11	8	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tyrone Covington	9	22	30	1(-10)	1(-4)	3	1	1-20-0	-	-	-	-	-
Al Jennings	7	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Joe Mitchell	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reggie Drew	8	10	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woody Shaw	3	2	3	-	1(-3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mike Angland	5	4	3	1(-5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tom Moskal	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

KEY: T (Solo Tackles) AT (Assisted Tackles) SACKS (QB Only) TFL (Tackles for Loss) FF (Forced Fumbles)

FR (Fumble Recoveries)

1982 RESULTS (9-0-1, 2-0-1)

27 14 ILLINOIS STATE (8200)
 18 17 NORTHEAST MISSOURI (7000)
 27 0 WAYNE STATE (7200)
 10 10 at Northern Iowa * (10,276)
 27 23 at Youngstown State (8895)
 18 0 AKRON (10,631)
 16 12 at Indiana State (15,471)
 31 7 at Western Illinois * (10,399)
 20 7 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (9120)
 36 7 at Southwest Missouri *
 Nov. 13 KENTUCKY STATE (Parents Weekend)

* Mid-Continent Conference